WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for establishing a user configuration, the method comprising:

receiving first data indicative of information regarding a user characteristic;

detecting second data indicative of a communications characteristic for the user;

determining whether the first data and second data are related; and

establishing a user configuration based upon results of the determination of whether the first data and the second data are related.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the communications characteristic includes a telephone number.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the communications characteristics is detected at a terminal server, the method further comprising using a tunneling protocol to tunnel the second data from a user terminal to the terminal server.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein the tunneling protocol is a layer two tunneling protocol.

5.   The method of claim 2 wherein the second data are detected based on ANI data representing the telephone number.

6.   The method of claim 5 wherein the communications characteristics is detected at a terminal server, the method further comprising using a tunneling protocol to tunnel the second data from a user terminal to the terminal server.

7.   The method of claim 6 wherein the tunneling protocol is a layer two tunneling protocol.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the first data includes a name of the user.

9.   The method of claim 8 wherein the name is used to perform a look-up of third data in a data store.

10.   The method of claim 9 wherein establishing a user configuration is performed by an Internet Service Provider and the data store is maintained by a third party.

11.   The method of claim 9 wherein the data store is maintained by an Internet Service Provider.

12.   The method of claim 2 further comprising enabling billing for activities other than telephone usage to be included with billings otherwise associated with usage of the telephone number based on the user configuration established when the first data and the second data are related.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the billings otherwise associated with usage of the telephone number include billings for online services.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the online services include purchases made over the Internet.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein establishing the user configuration includes establishing a new customer account.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the new customer account is associated with receiving Internet service.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the new customer account enables receipt of Internet service.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein establishing the user configuration includes modifying an existing customer account.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the existing customer account is associated with receiving online service.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the existing customer account enables receipt of Internet service.

21.   The method of claim 1 wherein establishing the user configuration occurs when the first data and the second data both are determined to be associated with a particular user.

22.   The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving, detecting, determining and establishing of the method are performed contemporaneously.

23.   A method for enabling a user configuration, the method comprising:

receiving first data regarding a communications characteristic;

retrieving second data indicative of a frequency of usage related to the communications characteristic;

retrieving third data indicative of a frequency of usage threshold;

comparing the second data and the third data; and

enabling a user configuration based on results of the comparison between the second data and the third data.

24.   The method of claim 23 wherein the first data includes data relating to a telephone number.

25.   The method of claim 23 wherein the first data includes data indicative of a user name.

26.   The method of claim 24 wherein the second data indicates historical information regarding past attempts to enable the user configuration based on the first data.

27.   The method of claim 26 wherein the historical information is defined over a specified period of time.

28.   The method of claim 23 wherein the first data includes ANI data.

29.   A method for enabling a user configuration, the method comprising:

receiving data regarding a communication characteristic;

identifying a formatting characteristic of the data received;

comparing the formatting characteristic against a format criteria; and

enabling a user configuration based on results of the comparison between the formatting characteristic and the format criteria.

30.   The method of claim 29 wherein the communications characteristic includes a telephone number.

31.   The method of claim 29 wherein the formatting characteristic and the format criteria each include length.

32.   The method of claim 31 wherein the length includes a number of characters.

33.   The method of claim 29 wherein format criteria require only numeric data in the data.

34.   A system for establishing a user configuration comprising:

means for receiving first data indicative of information regarding a user characteristic;

means for detecting second data indicative of a communications characteristic for the user;

means for determining whether the first data and second data are related; and

means for establishing a user configuration based upon results of the determination of whether the first data and the second data are related.

35.   A system for enabling a user configuration comprising:

means for receiving first data regarding a communications characteristic;

means for retrieving second data indicative of a frequency of usage related to the communications characteristic;

means for retrieving third data indicative of a frequency of usage threshold;

means for comparing the second data and the third data; and

means for enabling a user configuration based on results of the comparison between the second data and the third data.

36.   A system for enabling a user configuration comprising:

means for receiving data regarding a communication characteristic;

means for identifying a formatting characteristic of the data received;

means for comparing the formatting characteristic against a format criteria; and

means for enabling a user configuration based on results of the comparison between the formatting characteristic and the format criteria.